

- (b) whether the licence has been utilised and Bank has been set up;
- (c) if so, when and where;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the licence will remain alive or be cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not issued any licence for setting up Bank of Gujarat Ltd. RBI has further reported that it had issued an "in-principle" approval to Gujarat State Fertilizer Co. Ltd., in January, 1994 to set up a bank to be known as Bank of Gujarat Ltd., which was withdrawn in January, 1999 due to changes in the composition of the promoter group and delay in setting up the Bank.

**Banks lending by to Infrastructure projects**

2626. SHRI RS. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that bank lending to infrastructure projects has been slow during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the gross credit; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase bank lending to infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHEPATIL): (a) to (c) There has been a consistent increase in the gross bank credit (outstanding) to infrastructure industry during the last three years. Based on the data from 50 selected scheduled commercial banks, the gross credit to infrastructure industry was Rs. 3163 crore, Rs. 5941 crore and Rs. 7243 crore during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

**Commencement of operations by private insurance sector**

2627. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new companies are yet to commence their operations even much after those have been issued licences for insurance business by the IRDA;